

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
of the NEBRASKA
BOARD OF Emergency
Medical Services
September 11, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Nebraska Board of Emergency Medical Services was called to order by Dr. James Smith, Board Chairperson, at 9:03 am, September 11, 2020, at the Younes Conference Center, Ruby Room #6, 416 Talmadge Road, Kearney, NE 68845. Copies of the agenda were emailed in advance to the Board members, emailed to interested parties, posted outside the Licensure Unit within the Nebraska State Office Building, and posted on the Department of Health and Human Services website, which was posted on August 24, 2020. Smith announced the location of an available copy of the Open Meetings Act within the room.

ROLL CALL

The following board members were present to answer roll call:

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| • Michael Bailey | • Dr. Michael Miller |
| • Randy Boldt | • Dion Neumiller |
| • Karen Bowlin | • Carolyn Petersen |
| • Joel Cerny | • Carl Rennerfeldt |
| • Ann Fiala | • Dr. James Smith |
| • Todd Hovey | • Scott Wiebe |
| • Linda Jensen | |

The following Board members were absent: Dr. John Bonta, Dr. Thomas Deegan and Michael Sheridan.

The following staff members from the Department and the Attorney General's Office were also present during all or part of the meeting:

- Tim Wilson
- Wendy Snodgrass
- Elizabeth Coker
- Lisa Anderson, *Assistant Attorney General*

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

Smith asked the board to take a moment of remembrance for those who lost their lives 19 years ago on September 11, 2001.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Rennerfeldt made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to adopt the agenda for the September 11, 2020, Board of Emergency Medical Services meeting.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Miller, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Smith, Wiebe. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bonta, Deegan, Sheridan. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: Miller made the motion, seconded by Fiala, to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2020 meeting with the following changes: The SALT triage should be START triage and Dr. Eric Ernest was appointed as the rural medical director versus nominated as.

Voting Yes: Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Miller, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Smith. Voting No: None. Abstain: Bailey, Wiebe. Absent: Bonta, Deegan, Sheridan. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Miller made the motion, seconded by Bailey, for the Board to go into closed session for the purpose of reviewing and discussing investigative reports, licensure applications, and other confidential information, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Miller, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Smith, Wiebe. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bonta, Deegan, Sheridan. Motion carried.

9:08 am *Meeting went into Closed session.*
10:06 am *Meeting returned to Open Session.*

OPEN SESSION

MOTION: Miller made the motion, seconded by Bowlin, for the Board to go into open session.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Miller, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Smith, Wiebe. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bonta, Deegan, Sheridan. Motion carried.

The board took a short break at 10:07 am, resumed at 10:23 am.

LICENSURE RECOMMENDATIONS**Tender Advocates, LLC – BLS Transport EMS Service**

MOTION: Boldt made the motion, seconded by Bailey, for BLS Transport EMS Service license be offered to Tender Advocates, LLC.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Miller, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Smith, Wiebe. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bonta, Deegan, Sheridan. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM: Office of Emergency Health Systems

- a) Tim Wilson gave an update on the Department. Licensure applications are coming in more complete, but still missing some paperwork. The Department may look at a new software program. There was discussion on license expirations and education due to the executive order this year. Possibly hold applications for up to 90 days to complete the fingerprint portion. Service rosters are also being updated with the state.
- b) Wilson reported EMS service inspections are on hold for the rest of the year.
- c) Snodgrass completed a Student Handbook and will send to the training agencies as well as post a link on the department website. A RedCap survey was set up with the regulations effective July 20, 2020 and the link should be ready within the week.
- d) Wilson reported Debbie Kuhn has put out a lot of good training this year.
- e) Kuhn has had a lot of debriefings this year. Grant funding was received which has been going toward training and education. CISM regulations had a few changes that needed to be made, so

waiting on 2nd hearing. LB963 passed in legislature and was signed by the Governor on August 15, 2020. There is verbiage about what first responders endure on a day-to-day basis, developing guidelines for resiliency training and to change workers' compensation provisions for injuries to first responders and frontline state employees.

- f) The trauma rules and regulations will be going to a third public hearing, which has not been scheduled at this time.
- g) Dr. Smith gave a brief update on the information Becka Neumiller provided the board.
- h) Sharon Steele walked the board through the EMS data presentation.

Jensen sent an email to Wilson letting him know she appreciates the magnitude of the work being accomplished by the Department and presenting a report before the meeting has been very helpful.

Additional information was compiled from the Office of Emergency Health Systems and provided to the Board prior to the meeting. See Attachment A to the minutes for complete briefing.

The Board took a break to attend the Open Session at the EMS Conference. Started at 11:05 am.

AGENDA ITEM: EMS Conference Open Session

The Board started the open session at 11:20 am with introductions of Board members and staff of the OEHS Department. Dr. Smith gave an update and thanked Senator Bostelman for all of his help in the passing of LB1002. Dr. Smith also gave a brief update to the rules and regulations. Dr. Miller updated on education and training agency information.

It was then open to the floor for questions. Topics included:

- The new regulations could have additional costs, especially to the smaller services.
- Physician's assistants can operate on a squad without an EMT, only to the level of service of that squad.
- Jensen thanked all the PAs, RNs and MDs who help out with the services, since many can be short-handed.
- Dr. Ernest gave an update on the EMS protocols, with a potential completion by the end of the year.
- The Board reminded those in attendance of open positions on the board and apply if interested.
- With the new rules and regulations, there was some discussion on the QA requirement. Forms will be available online.
- Wilson gave an update on improving data. It is a very manual process right now and we could do better.
- Dr. Miller gave an update a committee will start working on critical care paramedic and community paramedicine regulations.
- Cerny gave an update on NSVFA and grant funds that are available.
- Snodgrass gave an update on education funds which are available to the services.
- Wiebe gave an update on the CARES registry.
- Snodgrass let attendees know for those who want to be AEMT certified, she can get them in touch with the agencies who provide the training.

The open session ended at 12:20 pm. The board meeting reconvened at 12:47 pm

AGENDA ITEM: Statewide Physician Medical Director Update

Dr. Ernest gave update on RQI. A pilot is being ran in Cass County. This would be education training over time, such as skills training. This is a 4-5 month pilot. Would like to bring into the prehospital settings.

Working with Wilson on physician CME requirements. This is an EMS driven package and looking to focus the first round on fundamentals.

As reported in open session, the EMS protocols are being reviewed and should go to subcommittee end of September.

Dr. Ernest brought forth an option of having EMS personnel assist when it comes to rapid COVID testing. There was further discussion amongst the group and Wilson will follow up with legal to see what may be the proper route.

AGENDA ITEM: Scope of Practice Committee Update

Fiala gave an update as she was approached by the Nebraska City EMS service on allowing AEMT's additional formularies.

MOTION: Boldt made the motion, seconded by Fiala, to add the following medications and subsequent means of administration for the formulary for AEMT: Zofran ODT or IV; Benadryl oral, IV, IM; Fentanyl IV/IM/IO/MAD; Benzodiazepines IV/IM/IO/MAD (drug specific per our formulary); Continuation of previously started antibiotics *on a pump only*; Continuation of previously started IV fluids containing electrolytes *on a pump only*.

Discussion on the pumps. The individual services will maintain preventative maintenance on the pumps as they do with the rest of their equipment.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Miller, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Smith, Wiebe. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bonta, Deegan, Sheridan. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM: NSVFA Update

Cerny gave update on NSVFA. The annual meeting was canceled so all officers will remain in their perspective roles for another year. STRIVE, State Tuition Reimbursement as Incentive for Volunteer Emergency Responders deadline was September 1, 2020, but the next deadline is March 1, 2021. Information is available on NSVFA.org under the SAFER Grant tab.

Dates and locations of the Retention and Recruitment Workshops: McCook, September 19 and 20; Broken Bow, November 7 and 8.

The NVFC has worked to develop a Retention Research Report which is now on the website at: <https://www.nvfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/20Aug-NVFC-Retention-Research-Report-FINAL.pdf>.

AGENDA ITEM: NEMSA Update

NEMSA President, Sandy Lewis gave an update. The website has been updated. The two conferences have combined for one larger conference to be held January 14-17, 2021. Dr. Smith let Sandy know if they would like the Board to participate in an open public session, to let the Board know.

AGENDA ITEM: Rules and Regulations and Statutes Update

Wilson reported the rules and regulations has a July 20, 2020 effective date. The department is looking to hold a webinar on what changes were made. The Chair of PPE for the State, Doug Carlson, would also like to speak. The committee is starting rules and regulations again with critical care paramedic and community paramedicine. Once the committee has some of the regulations prepared, they will go to the stakeholders for further opinions or suggestions.

AGENDA ITEM: Committee Assignments

The Board reviewed the various committees and elected Chairpersons as follows:

- Legislation and Rules and Regulations – Dr. James Smith
- Scope of Practice Committee – Ann Fiala
- EMS Education – Dr. Mike Miller
- EMS Medical Direction – Dr. John Bonta
- EMS Data Collection – Mike Bailey
- EMS Workforce – Joel Cerny. Also added Karen Bowlin as a member.

Further discussion on a liaison for dispatch. The Board decided to set up as another committee. Members to include: Karen Bowlin, Carolyn Petersen, Mike Bailey, John Bonta, Dion Neumiller and Scott Wiebe. Chairperson will be Neumiller.

If the individual committees want to seek help outside of the EMS board members, they are allowed to do so, however, non-board members will not be reimbursed for expenses.

MOTION: Rennerfeldt made the motion, seconded by Bowlin, for the appointments of the Chairpersons for each Committee as well as adding the EMS Dispatch Committee.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Miller, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Smith, Wiebe. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bonta, Deegan, Sheridan. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM: EMS/Nursing Position Statement

Jensen gave an update on the Joint Advisory Opinion of Role of Nursing in EMS. This is set to go to the Board of Nursing October 8.

MOTION: Jensen made the motion, seconded by Bailey, for the presented draft memorandum to move forward approved by the Board. Further discussion.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Miller, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Smith, Wiebe. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bonta, Deegan, Sheridan. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM: NFPA EMS Instructor Training

Snodgrass gave an update. The overall curriculum is compatible to meet EMS instructor definition. Wilson will forward the instructor guide to the board and the Education Committee will review before the next board meeting. The committee can make a motion at the next meeting to have the class be board approved.

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

No comments from the public.

CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Coker
Administrative Assistant

Attachment A

**EMS Board Meeting, September 11, 2020
Office of Emergency Health Systems Reports**

a) Licensing (Wilson / Huggins)

- The new application just premiered. We converted three applications into one. Those being the initial, temporary and reinstatement applications. Please submit in the new current application.
- We will start accepting initial applications prior to initial course completion and NREMT certification to streamline the background check process. Students are expected to successfully complete the initial course and NREMT certification exams. They are encouraged to submit their initial application and FBI background check application with processing fee at least four weeks prior to course completion date. The application must be submitted with prior documentation in order for the background check process to begin. This process will help alleviate the delay in licensing due to awaiting results from the background check.
- The executive order is still in effect, so fingerprinting is still being waived for processing but it is still a requirement to be done. The state of emergency is still in effect for renewal for the following license types: EMR, AEMT, EMT-I and Paramedic. EMS Instructors will be required to renew on the traditional schedule.

b) EMS Program (Jorgensen)

- The number of EMS individual contact the Specialists have had thus far in 2020 is 4,810.
- The EMS Program has hired Michelle Eutsler as the new Central Region EMS Specialist. She started on July 30th. She will home office in Gibbon where she lives and is an EMT and Rescue Captain for Gibbon Fire Department.
- Since the last board meeting, two services have been inspected who have applied to be licensed in Nebraska.
- The EMS Program has been reviewing and updating various documents used by our program so they are consistent with the new rules and regulations/statutes. A few additional documents have also been created.
- The EMS Specialists have been delivering more surgical masks and N95 masks to those services needing additional supplies.

c) Education and Training Agency Compliance (Snodgrass)

- Slowly starting to complete training agency site inspections again. 6 inspections scheduled for this year.
- NREMT Update:
 - NREMT will stop issuing provisional certifications on 12/31/2020. Those with provisional certifications will have one year to complete exams. The Board can initiate emergency action to extend the date due to changes with the pandemic.
 - The distributive learning cap has been waived for the 2021 recertification season. The DE limits will be restored for those renewing 2022.

- EMS ID numbers were issued to all current NREMT certified professionals and will be issued for all new applications. This will be used with the database tracking with the EMS Compact.
- Will begin to incorporate Technology Enhanced Items (TEIs) on the cognitive exams starting this fall. The TEIs will incorporate some multiple response type items (more than one answer) with traditional multiple choice (single answer) items.
- A Student Handbook has been developed for training agencies, instructors and EMS students. This is a reference document to assist students with licensing, renewal, reimbursement questions and includes OEHS contact information. The handbook will also be posted on the Education page of the website.
- Looking into using PHHS funds to help cover registration costs for a set number of EMS instructors for NAEMSE virtual conference.

d) Emergency Medical Services for Children (Kuhn)

- Heartland EMS for Children is hosting the first virtual symposium the evenings of September 17 and 18. There are over 1,000 participants. Avera, through South Dakota, is giving nursing CEU's. The next symposium will be Children with Special Health Care Needs on December 10 and 11.
- Debbie has met with Anne Duhs and Marjorie VanRiper to begin the process to recognize hospitals who are Peds Ready and prepare for National Peds Readiness Assessment. We are hoping this recognition will be ready to roll out early next year.

e) Critical Incident Stress Management (Kuhn)

- Basic CISM was held in Norfolk August 7 and 8. Had 7 participants, only one has joined the team so far.
- Scottsbluff was held on August 15 and 16. Had 6 participants, only one has joined the team.
- Bennington will be held on October 2 and 3. Please help spread the information.
- August was a busy month for intervention requests.

f) Trauma System (Bailey / Wren)

- 51 designated trauma centers
- Re-designations: Pawnee County Memorial, Basic Level; Syracuse Area Health, Basic Level
- Upcoming education: Trauma Nurse Coordinator Day, September 15 via Zoom; 90 participants are registered for the training focusing on providing education for TNCs who apply for trauma center designation
- Upcoming Trauma Advisory Board Meeting on October 9 in Lincoln. This will be a strategic planning meeting.

g) Stroke/STEMI System (Neumiller / Wilson)

- Becka provided a PowerPoint presentation on 2019 Triage and Transport non-stroke designated hospitals. Also provided were spreadsheets of a breakdown of stroke centers and PCI centers. The slide deck and spreadsheets were provided to the board prior to the meeting.

h) EHS Data Systems (Steele / Wilson)

- Sharon provided a PowerPoint Presentation on possible COVID effects on EMS calls. The slide deck was provided to the board prior to the meeting.